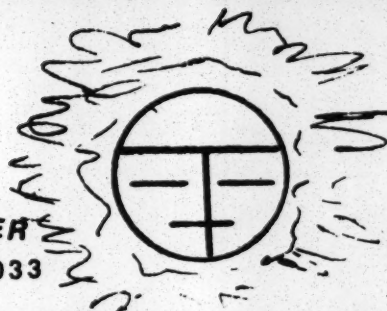


THUNDERBOW

CHURCH OF SEVEN ARROWS' NEWSLETTER

4385 Hoyt St.-Apt. 201; Wheatridge, CO - 80033



60¢ plain

Number 96

Date: January, 1986

page 1

About THUNDERBOW:

Published monthly (since Nov., '77) as a National forum for Craft-Practitioner idea-exchange AND interface between Craft and non-Craft persons having common interests or concerns, **THUNDERBOW** and contributing writers welcome letters from readers. So -- what's on **YOUR** mind?

-- The Editors --

APOLOGIES to our readers for the December issue "skip" necessitated by major reorganizations in **T-BOW** procedures and staff. There are two extra pages this issue by way of "make up" and subscriptions will be extended one month to cover the missed issue.

---THUNDERBOW Editors---



FACE OF THE MOTHER:

| | | | | |
|-----------|------|---------|-----|--------|
| New Moon | 1/10 | 5:25 am | MST | Denver |
| 1st 1/4 | 1/17 | 3:15 pm | MST | Denver |
| Full Moon | 1/25 | 5:30 pm | MST | Denver |
| 3rd 1/4 | 2/01 | 9:40 pm | MST | Denver |
| New Moon | 2/08 | 5:55 pm | MST | Denver |

Planets & Balances --- February

AIR (Thinking) very high 'til 2/11, going to virtually none by 2/21; **FIRE** (Willpower) high-to-very-high all month; **WATER** (Emotionalism) average 'til 2/13, going to VERY high by 2/20; **EARTH** (Practicality/Materialism) very low all month.

CREATIVE (Planning/Theorizing) VERY high 'til 2/11, going to very low by 2/20; **ACTIVE** (Doingness) VERY low all month; **EVALUATIVE** (Criticism/Retrospect) average 'til 2/10, going to VERY high by 2/20.

STRONG TENDENCIES TO FIERY THINKING ABOUT PLANS AND THEORIES "TIL MID-MONTH, SHIFTING TO STRONG TENDENCIES TO FIERY EMOTIONALISM ---STEAMY!!! -- AND RELATIVE CRITICISMS AND FOCUS ON PAST EVENTS AFTER MID-MONTH; THESE TENDENCIES COMPOUNDED BY LACK OF REFERENCE TO PRACTICALITY & PHYSICAL SITUATIONS ALL MONTH!

NOTE: -- THE FOREGOING IS LIKELY TO BE WORSENERD WHEN **PLUTO** (Non-conscious Spiritual Understandings) **TURNS RETROGRADE (BACKWARDS)** IN **SCORPIO** (EMOTIONAL CREATIVITY) ON 2/12, IMPARTING TENDENCIES TO SPIRITUAL LEVEL MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF EMOTIONAL CREATIVITY TO THE ELEMENT **IM-BALANCES**

FASTEN YOUR PSYCHO-EMOTIONAL SEAT-BELTS, AND DEVOTE LOTS OF ATTENTION TO BEING PRACTICAL AND STABLE!!!

HAPPENINGS:

ITEM: Excessive levels of exhaust fumes, breaking down the protective ozone layer and increasing U-V light penetration of the atmosphere, are a major cause in the more-than-doubled skin cancer rate in the last decade, according to a recent environmental report.

ITEM: A congressional Joint Economic Committee study indicates the American Dream may be slipping beyond the reach of the middle class, particularly the "baby boom" generation. Incomes are lower, prices are higher, with a median income drop of almost \$2,000 since 1973.

ITEM: Descendants of six Indian Nilgai antelope that escaped from a Texas ranch in the early part of this century now run wild in herds numbering in the thousands. Advocates of wild-herd ranching are hoping to make the low-cholesterol mean an economical alternative to beef in the 1990's. The main problem now is that ranchers can make larger profits from leasing hunting rights to sportsmen to hunt the antelope.

ITEM: An artillery noise study, using human subjects, near the Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico, has been cancelled by D.O.E. Secretary John Herrington.

ITEM: A recent report released by the Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated a drop in the U.S. farm population of 7% in 1985, the largest annual decline in a decade.

ITEM: More than half of the U.S. food consumed, including nearly 90% of the fruit juices and vegetables, is frozen, according to the Frozen Food Action Communication Team.


ITEM: 35 of 142 Federal agencies, aside from the FBI, CIA, and NSA, are engaging or plan to engage in some form of electronic surveillance of the American people, according to a recent Report from the Office of Technology Assessment of the U.S. Congress.

ITEM: The U.S. Department of Agriculture is expecting a 2-4% rise in food prices in 1986.

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HAPPENINGS continued...

ITEM: Strawberries will be the first test crop using a genetically-altered bacteria that inhibits ice crystal formation (see *THUNDERBOW* #95). The tests will be done in California.

ITEM: PPNG, the Penicillin-resistant strain of gonorrhea, was reported for the first time in all 50 states of the U.S. New York City, Los Angeles, and Florida accounted for 71% of all cases.

ITEM: Norway brought a wave-powered electrical generator station into operation in late 1985. The station can generate up to 850 kilowatts of electricity which will be used by a local power grid.



PROJECTS & GATHERINGS

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS' Research Fund's annual drive for funds---contributions (tax-deductible!) are used to support in-depth investigation and reporting of Business' and Government's activities, or lack thereof, relative to environmental issues of toxic wastes, pollution, water usage, wild lands, and so on. For more information, or to make your tax-deductible contribution, write High Country News Research Fund, P. O. Box 1090, Paonia CO 81428. (Contributions of \$50 or more receive, or can give as a gift, a year's subscription - 25 issues - to High Country News.)

HARI SELDON CLUB to explore and refine the principles and mechanics of small community development and progress. For more information, write c/o Paul Anderson, P.O. Box 80, Seely Lake MT 59868.

GODDESS GATHERING '86 (4th Annual), June 19-22, at Echo Hills Ski Resort (again) near Logan OH. 1st annual Pagan Games program (adults & children), art show & auction, raffles (adults & children), workshops, rituals, and so on. (To give a workshop, etc., contact: Society of Janus, P.O. Box 961, Elgin IL 60121-0961.) For registration, brochure & form, send SASE (business-size) to Riversong, P.O. Box 1966, Youngstown OH 44506.

ELF-FEST '86 (3rd Annual), May 22-26, near Bloomington IL. Workshops, dance, ritual, etc. for beginning and advanced persons. Child-care provided. Pre-registration ends May 8th. For more information, contact: Elf Lore Family (E.L.F.), P.O. Box 1082, Bloomington IL 47402.

PAGAN SPIRIT GATHERING, June 18-23, in Wisconsin. For more information, contact: Circle, P.O. Box 219, Mt. Horeb WI 53572, or call (608) 924-2216.

STARWOOD GATHERING, July 19-21, east-central Ohio. For more information, contact: A.C.E. 3130 Mayfield Rd., Cleveland Hts. OH 77188, or call (216) 932-5421.

PROJECTS & GATHERINGS continued...

GAIA FEST, July 2-6, in mid-Indiana. Workshops, demonstrations, projects, barter & trade, ritual, etc. To schedule presentations, contact: GAIA Programming, c/o E.L.F., P.O. Box 1082, Bloomington IL 47402 (before Spring Equinox, include SASE). To inquire for pre-registration, contact: GAIA Registrations, c/o Heartland, 2237 W. Morse Av. Chicago IL 60645 (include SASE).

HARVEST SURVIVAL & HEALING GATHERING, August 8-11. For more information, contact: Earth Song Community, P.O. Box 5628, Baltimore MD 21210.

SOLITARY'S CONVENTION, August 9-11, Index WA. For more information, contact: Aquarian Tabernacle, P.O. Box 57, Index WA 98256.


ANNUAL PAN PAGAN FESTIVAL, August 15-18, Valparaiso IN. For more information, contact: Midwest Pagan Council, P.O. Box 664, Chicago Hts. IL 60411, or call (312) 335-1113.

C.O.G. GRAND COUNCIL, August 29-September 2, in northwestern Massachusetts. For more information, contact: Michael Harismides/Kathexis, P.O. Box 5438, Sunnyside NY 11104.

WILD MAGICK GATHERING, September 20-22, near Bloomington IN. For more information, contact E.L.F., P.O. Box 1082, Bloomington IN 47402.

NORTHWEST FALL EQUINOX GATHERING, September 20-22, near Portland OR. For more information, contact: P.O. Box 14015, Portland OR 97214.





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ASK THE OLD MAN:

QUESTION: What is likely to be the situation in America in late January-early February?

HEXAGRAM (ANSWER):

6 _____
5 _____
4 _____
3 _____
2 _____
1 _____

NO
CHANGE
LINES

#48 The Well

The entire late January-early February period looks like one in which, though there may be surface-changes (particularly relative to our urban situations), the actual material base will be the same.

There are also implications that there will be need for attention to work, and to cooperative effort, with a focus on reaching and working with the actual resources available.

AVOID "SHOULD-BE'S" AND "SUPPOSED-TO-BE'S!"
WORK WITH "IS-NESES!" PROMOTE COOPERATION!

THERE IS A RIVER...

QUESTION: What is the likely course of events in America January through June, 1986?

HEXAGRAM (ANSWER):

6 _____ X
5 _____
4 _____ GOING
3 _____ TO
2 _____
1 _____

20
Contemplation
(view)

#8
Holding Together
(Union)

The first three months look like a time of pressures to cleansing & contemplating the situation, with particular reference to discovering the actual Basic Principles operative, and changing such customs and beliefs as are inappropriate to these principles.

The April-through-June period looks like one where constant examination of the situation/directions will be necessary if one is to "stay afloat," with a high likelihood that the country in general will miss the appropriate time to become unified and, hence, become even further disorganized.

CAREFULLY RE-EXAMINE YOUR BELIEFS IN THE LIGHT OF OBSERVABLE PRINCIPLES; CHANGING THOSE THAT ARE IN ERROR; AND BE PREPARED TO WITNESS FURTHER DISINTEGRATION/DISORGANIZATION OF "OUR SYSTEM"!!!

QUESTION: What is the likely course of events in America July-through-December 1986?

HEXAGRAM (ANSWER)

6 _____
5 _____ X
4 _____
3 _____
2 _____
1 _____

#20
Contemplation
(View)

#4
Youthful Folly

July-through-September looks like a "replay" of the first three months regarding the necessity of careful examination of the situation relative actual Basic Principles, with an eye to changing those customs and beliefs not in accord with such Basic Principles.

October-through-December looks like a time of tendencies to childishly ask "What's happening?" repeatedly, with-out paying attention to the answer(s), probably because the answer(s) won't match our ideas of "should-be"s and "ought-to-be"s.

CONTINUED RE-EXAMINATION AND CHANGE OF YOUR BELIEFS IN THE LIGHT OF OBSERVABLE BASIC PRINCIPLES; BE "PATIENT" AND RESERVED WITH THOSE WHO'LL BE ASKING "WHAT'S HAPPENING?" BUT NOT WANTING ANSWERS; AND SEEK YOUR OWN ANSWERS WITHOUT BEING ARROGANT ABOUT WHAT YOU THINK YOU ALREADY KNOW!!

NOT EASY TIMES!!! BE CONCERNED WITH ALIGNING YOUR BELIEFS WITH OBSERVABLE REALITY!!! BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH INCREASING DISORGANIZATION AND CONFUSION IN THE GENERAL SITUATION!!!

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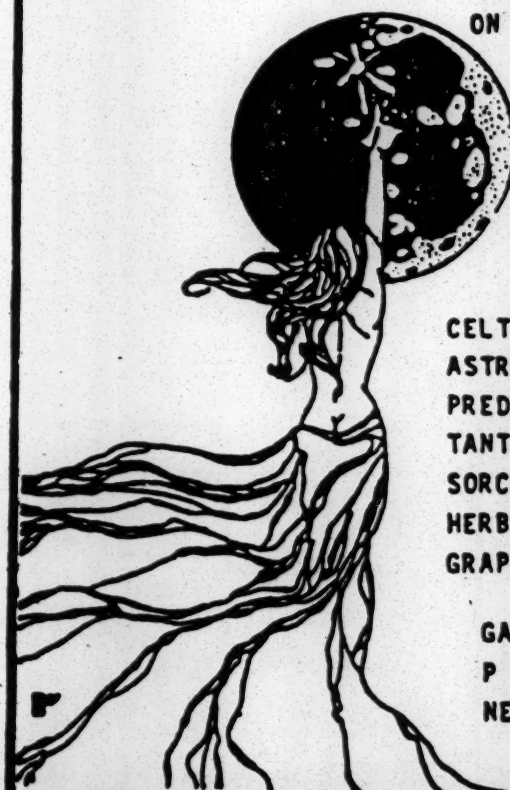
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EARTH-WATCH:

Recent communications from "J.S." report the following quakes:

12/1 -Los Angeles, CA - 2 quakes @ 3.4 each
-Monterey, CA - small quake

12/16-Island near Australia @ 6.7

12/19-Santa Monica, CA @ 2.9

To which we add the following:

12/30-South-central Alaska @ 5.2, followed by
6 aftershocks - 2 @ 3.7

A U.S. Geological Survey report warns that the Los Angeles area will inevitably be hit by a major earthquake within 30 years and that it could be the worst natural catastrophe in American history. More than 90 geologic faults cut through the area, many through heavily populated areas. A moderate quake along any one of a number of these faults could cause as much damage as a "catastrophic" quake along the more distant San Andreas fault system.

On Jan. 4th volcanic activity producing tremors and showers of ash was reported coming from the Nevado del Ruiz volcano (Columbia) which erupted Nov. 13th, after 500 years of inactivity, killing about 25,000 people. Seismologists confirmed that the conditions of this new activity are similar to those of November's eruption.

Additional volcanic activity, possibly triggered by the Nevado del Ruiz eruption, has occurred in the Andes mountains. Azufra was reported to be making "very strange noises" while Galeras was rumbling and steaming.

Due to a huge mass of Arctic air moving into the Rockies at the beginning of last month and remaining for 3 weeks (for reasons weathermen don't understand!), Dec. '85 was the 3rd coldest year-end month since meteorologists began keeping monthly weather records in 1931.

At the same time, in Northwest China on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, a million yaks, horses and cattle died (with 2 million more expected to starve to death) in a fierce 11-week blizzard.

A new analysis of a classic 60-year-old physics experiment has resulted in evidence of a fifth force - the hypercharge force - that tends to counteract gravity weakly over short distances, allowing the fall of a heavier object to be slightly slower than that of a lighter object. The 4 previously known forces are gravity, electromagnetism, and 2 sub-atomic forces called the strong force and the weak force.

Recent ocean-drilling program results seem to verify that Canada, Greenland, and Western Europe were once a single landmass that began separating about 85 million years ago, with Baffin Bay opening up about 55 million years ago and causing major climate change due to changed ocean circulation patterns.

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STAR-STUDIES:

---The NASA satellite called International Cometary Explorer (ICE), passed through the 12-15,000-mile thick tail of the Comet Giacobini-Zimmer in September. Although the data beamed to earth supports the basic idea concerning the make-up of comets, ICE produced many surprises. As scientists expected, the primary substance in the comet's tail is water in an ionized or charged form, similar to a dirty snowball. What surprises the scientists, however, was the intensity of the electrical activity and the turbulence of the charged particles extending 77,000 miles out from the tail. The most startling discovery was that comets can accelerate charged atomic particles to unimagined speeds using energy captured by the sun.

---The Halley Hot-Line phone number for the U.S. Naval Observatory (November Thunderbow) has been changed to (900) 410-8766. You may call this new line for recorded updates on Halley's progress.

---Photographs received from Voyager II spacecraft have confirmed the presence of a tiny sixth moon orbiting Uranus. Scientists believe there may be as many as 18 moons to be found among the nine known rings of the planet. The newly-discovered moon, temporarily called 1985U1, is located between the orbit of the moon Miranda and the outermost of the planet's rings, the epsilon ring. According to NASA, 1985U1 orbits Uranus every 18 hours, 17 minutes, and 9 seconds.

---The Challenger is scheduled to launch again on January 22. The crew is to include Sharon Christa McAuliffe, America's first teacher in space.

---On January 24, Voyager II will come within 66,000 miles of Uranus.

---On January 30, Voyager I will be 2,409,000-000 miles from Earth, & 2,391,000,000 miles from the Sun.



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LOOKING FORWARD...

Just completed is the work-up of the Planetary Balances (Air, Fire, Water, and Earth; Creative, Active, and Evaluative) for 1986, and if you thought 1985 was strange, buckle your psycho-emotional seat-belts.

The basic tenor of 1986 looks even more intense than 1985. There will be, generally, less Air (Thinking) and Earth (Practicality/Materialism) than in 1985, accompanied by more Water (Emotionalism), and the Active (Doingness) and Creative (Planning/Theorizing) balances will be generally lower while Evaluative (Criticisms/Retrospect) will be generally higher.

There is also some indication that the Galactic "energy-wave-ripples" will be intensifying over the next four-to-five years.

1986 Elementally:

AIR (Thinking) will be short-to-nonexistent most of the year, with brief periods of alleviation in late May/early June, and late September through late October, with FIRE (Willpower) and WATER (Emotionalism) being the predominant focii all year, though EARTH (Practicality/Materialism) will be present to help mitigate the Fire-Water combination early April to mid-October.

CREATIVE (Planning/Theorizing) and ACTIVE (Doingness) will be generally average-to-very-low most of the time, with the focus being EVALUATIVE (Criticisms/Retrospect) about 3/4 of the time.

Planetarily, the major problems with Retrogrades (planets moving in reverse along their orbits) will be early April to late August, with focii in Capricorn (Active Practicality/Materialism) and Sagittarius (Willful Criticism/Evaluation) -- two Retrogrades each, and secondary problems in Water -- Pisces (Emotional Evaluations/Criticisms) and Scorpio (Emotional Creativity).

SPECIAL NOTE: Uranus (Sudden Changes/"Flashes") is Retrograde in Sagittarius from 3/30 to 8/29, giving high probabilities for major volcanic and earthquake activity periods in late March through early April, and late August through early September.

IN GENERAL, IT WILL REQUIRE LOTS OF ATTENTION AND EFFORT THIS YEAR TO BE RATIONAL, REASONABLE, AND MATERIALLY PRACTICAL!!! THE PRESURES WILL BE TOWARD STEAMY CRITICISMS, ESPECIALLY ABOUT PAST EVENTS!!!

The Fire-Water and Evaluative balances also incline toward increased violent weather and geologic events, such as hurricanes, toronadoes, volcanic explosions, and earthquakes.

**DON'T BE SURPRISED AT UPHEAVALS!!!
STAY GROUNDED!!!**



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AMERICAN LACUNGA:

"Not tonight, dear. I'll have a Headache."

Sometimes scientific discoveries are made, not by white-coated scientists, but by backyard tinkers! Such was the case of a Georgia man with heart disease.

According to Emory University researchers, the man noticed that the nitrate skin patches he was wearing on his chest to control heart pain gave him a headache, a known side-effect of the drug. The headache didn't occur if he wore the patch on his leg. His curiosity aroused, the man rubbed a used patch on his penis. Within five minutes, he became sexually aroused, and had sexual intercourse with his wife. "Several minutes later," the Decatur GA-based researchers report in the November *ANNALS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE*, "she wondered why she had the worst headache she ever had in her life."

The man explained, but his wife was not impressed and strongly discouraged any more investigation in this area.

The case, the researchers say, "illustrates two previously undescribed points concerning topical nitrates: their ability to induce vasodilation and resulting erection, and their absorption through the mucous membranes of the vaginal walls." The authors expressed doubt that further research in this area would be done.

SCIENCE NEWS (Dec. 14, '85)



per News

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Voice of the Turtle

Enlightenment for ALL!

For three decades, there has been much talk and prophesy relative to an "Age of Enlightenment," an "Aquarian Age," a "Second Coming," a "World-Change Time," a "Time of Kali," or however else the 1980's, 1990's and early 2,000's may be labelling such an event.

By far, the majority of persons and groups talking about the predicated effects (be the persons Christian, Moslem, Hindu, Pagan, Neopagan, or whatever) seems to view the situation as though the effects are going to impact everyone EXCEPT themselves -- since they are (of course!) already "saved," "enlightened," or "chosen!"

I would propose the idea (oh, Heresy!) that ALL, Each & Every One on Earth, are going to be impacted by the same effects or energies as everyone else, with NO regard to what path or predilection has been followed & practiced spiritually. ("There is NO place to hide!" -- for anyone!!!)

If this be the case, then safe passage through the process will depend on the extent one's beliefs and practices enable one to confront and adapt to the effects and energies that would be coming upon us, rather than being a matter of what Diety-allegiance one may espouse or not.

As a further ramification (if my assessment is accurate), it will be entirely proper to ask one's Diety for Guidance (as "What is actually happening?" and/or "What is my proper course in this?"), but it will not be proper to ask "Save me!!!" (e.g., "Let it happen to everyone except me!!!").

And, by way of a corollary thought, it might be well (if one wishes to survive the changes) to not rely heavily on those Dieties who respond to Guidance-Requests with mere "Believe-in-me"s or "Just-have-faith"s, or who promise "Salvation" (e.g., exemption from the situation).

The World is always turning toward the Sunrise!!!

Take Care & Be Well!

--Kahote--



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SHIFTS & CHANGES:

Pagan Unity News has ceased publication (Sadness is!), but Bonnie & Northern Way with "Mail & Femail Chainmail" are continuing, and a book of Norse Practices is in the works for 1986 release; however, there is a new address (45 S. La Vergne, Northlake IL 60164) and phone (312) 562-0802. P.U.N. subscribers will soon be receiving a mailer and, if owed such, a subscription refund.

Thomas Lyttle & Psychedelic Monographs & Essays have a new address (100 Valley Stream Drive, #300, Naples FL 33962) and, as a result of unexpected situational upheavals, may be a bit slow in responding to communications for a short time while getting re-organized.

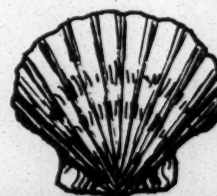
Larry Cornett has moved to: 609 10th Ave.S., Birmingham AL 35205.

The Muse: A Contemplation of the Mid-Winter Moon

Winter is now upon us, and the Mid-Winter Moon is new. The time is come to center ourselves on the point of NOW. To evaluate the past and, from this pinnacle, to prepare ourselves for the future.

We see and hear a lot about this being a time of Chaos, the End of the Fourth World. But out of Chaos will order come even as Spring comes from Winter. Those who are at peace within their hearts are in the greatest shelter wherein they may develop discipline and balance for the times ahead, the time of New Spring.

Seven Arrows has become a community, a community of individuals intent on learning and growing and finding their own place on the Great Wheel. Each is a spirit of infinite beauty, capability, and power. And as a community of Brothers and Sisters, we are greater than the sum of the individual parts. It is difficult, at best, to practice an Earth Religion, and to live in accord with Natural Law while living in an urban world. But here we are, becoming disciplined and balanced and mindful that our basic purpose is to help lead the other beings of Earth in harmonious song which rises to the Ear of Creator. Grandmother loves us and is with us. Let us return her love and trust by asking for Wisdom, Power, Insight, and Strength to continue on our paths in the days to come.





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VOICES IN THE WIND:

MORALITY: Why bother?

The idea of "right" and "wrong" has been around for a long time. The definition of what is right and wrong has usually been left to the gods and their agents. Moral codes are usually justified by the concept of an afterlife, and are primarily used to direct the activities and attitudes of the population masses. Translated, that means *BE GOOD NOW, AND WHEN YOU DIE, YOU WILL REAP THE REWARD(S)!* Although this statement is a generalization, it can be applied to many religious-based moral codes.

As I see it, an ACTION taken today results in a RESPONSE which follows immediately. The RESULT may not appear immediately, but the mechanics of this universe are inexorable, and are set in motion by any given ACTION. One thing to consider, moreover, is that the consequences of any ACTION may be operating on several different levels of reality.

Any observable RESULT (and RESPONSE) can give us clues as to the "right-ness" or "wrong-ness" of a given ACTION. Whenever you perform a "right" ACTION, the RESULT will be an improvement in your situation (WORTH). Conversely, a "wrong" ACTION will bring about a negative RESULT. It is unfortunate that it can be very difficult to pick out individual RESULTS from our environment, but the ability to see the connections improves with practice.

In order to decide if a given ACTION is "right" or "wrong," it helps to know what the ACTION produced in the past...that's the hard way to find out. There are rules that govern ACTIONS, and with these rules, you can decide before you act whether your ACTION is "right" or "wrong." Something else for you to think about: you can alter your RESPONSE to any ACTION, which may save your hide in some situations.

TO BE CONTINUED....

Paul Anderson
Montana



EXCERPT:

...Colonel Brangwyn the magician tells his new student, one of his former junior officers:

"It (Christianity) has its place, Murchison, it has its place. It sweetened life when paganism had become corrupt. We lack something if we haven't got it. But we also lack something if we get too much of it. It isn't true to life if we take it neat."

...and Murchison thinks to himself:

"And the trouble with Christianity was that it was so darned lop-sided. Good, and jolly good, as far as it went, but you couldn't stretch it clean round the circle of experience because it just wouldn't go. What it was originally, nobody knew, save that it must have been something mighty potent. All we knew of it was what was left after those two crusty old bachelors, Paul and Augustine, had finished with it.

"And then came the heresy-hunters and gave it a final curry-combing, taking infinite pains to get rid of everything that it had inherited from older faiths. And they had been like the modern miller, who refines all the vitamins out of the bread and gives half of the population rickets. That was what was the matter with civilisation, it had spiritual rickets because its spiritual food was too refined. Man can't get on without a dash of paganism, and for the most part, he doesn't try to."

-- Dion Fortune --

The Winged Bull: A Romance of
Modern Magic
(London: Williams & Norgate, Ltd.,
1935)



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LET'S TALK RUNES:

This column is being started to trade all ideas about the meanings and uses of Runes in magic practice. I request YOUR ideas and feedback for use in this column, no holds barred! To start, the VIKING RUNES will be the material presented, although the PICTISH and other sets of runes will be included as material is received or found.

I have just started to study and use the VIKING RUNES. A set of the runes was given to me as a Christmas gift by a good friend. At first, I was somewhat reluctant to take the runes seriously. I thought the best place to start would be to get some information about the background and origins of the runes.

I went down to the library and checked out some books about Norse mythology. Plenty of misunderstandings and misconceptions were soon laid to rest. Another book was a comparison of Norse mythology with the Indo-European and the Greek legends and mythologies. Although there were many similarities, the cultural differences led me to believe that the runes of the Vikings were used to guide conquest as well as the daily matters of communication, music, protection, settling disputes, and division of quantities of goods or services. This was in addition to their use for divination.

Then I started to study the runes themselves. The runes seem to be more representative of the forces and attitudes manifest in the human animal and nature, rather than of outside forces of direction or chance. There seems to be more guidance concerning issues as opposed to guidance based on cause-and-effect. The runes seem to clarify situations rather than predict situations.

The sources for my information are as follows:

NORSE MYTHOLOGY, (c 1927, '42) Peter Munch
GODS OF THE NORTH, (c 1955) Brian Branston
SCANDINAVIAN MYTHOLOGY, (c 1969) H.R. Ellis Davidson

GODS AND MYTHS OF NORTHERN EUROPE, (c 1964) H.R. Ellis Davidson

THE BOOK OF RUNES, (c 1982) Ralph Blum

Another book which has been recommended is: RUNE PLAY by Ralph Blum. As yet, I have not been able to read it. Another source of information is, and will be those persons with whom discussions or correspondence would be greatly appreciated.

From student to teachers, have a grand day, and may all your runes be understandable.

--Shadoweaver--

PRACTITIONERS' NOTES:

"According to Eduardo's teachers (Shaman Don Eduardo, Guatemala), one of the grave dangers posed by magic in Western society is that we do not believe in nor understand it; so we practice it unconsciously on ourselves and others. Just as the force of gravity was at work within, upon, and around people long before Newton described it, the effects of magic on our lives, whether or not we believe in it, can be seen and demonstrated by someone with an understanding of it."

Debra Carroll

SHAMAN'S DRUM (#2) - "Dancing on the Sword's Edge"

LITERATES' CORNER:

From Time to Time

PAGAN PARENTS' LEAGUE Newsletter--monthly newsletter of useful ideas, commentaries, book-movie-comics reviews, etc., of interest to Pagan parents (married or single) available (Donations for postage & printing---\$\$\$ or stamps---welcomed!) from: Pagan Parents' League, P.O. Box 423P, Bay Shore, NY-11706.

META-SCOOP--monthly publication of articles and opinion-essays on a wide variety of topics @\$10/year from: Meta-Scoop, 1004 Live Oak Lane, Arlington, TX-76012.

Heretic's Journal BULLETIN--quarterly 4-page (mini-type) newsletter "for social and spiritual liberation" with interesting ideas and viewpoints on socio-political issues, including the current Congressional "Witchcraft legislation", from Ron Heresy, publisher of Heretic's Journal and Heretic's Journal FORUM. Enquiries to: Heretic's Journal BULLETIN, P.O. Box 12347, Seattle, WA-98111.

And a Special Note--

The Nov. 25 (Vol. 17 #22) issue of High Country News (\$20/year-25 issues from: Box 1090, Paonia, CO-81428) @\$1 explores in detail the efforts and problems with Native Americans' attempts to retain/regain control of their lands (given them by treaty) and the associated natural resources in the face of encroachments by Big Business and Big Government.

SEVEN ARROW'S DOINGS

The Church of Seven Arrows has grown far beyond the original expectations of its founder. The amount of work required to satisfy the needs and desires of the members has become more than the present staff can provide. The following changes have been initiated:

-as of January 10th (New Moon), the responsibility for production, etc., of the Thunderbow Newsletter has been assumed by a team consisting of Liz, Ann, Terri, Nancy, Frank, Eric, Pam, Maria and Randy.

-Notification of New Moon Ceremonies, "outings," pot-lucks, and so forth will be handled by volunteers, rather than by George.

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CLASS STARTS:

--Basic Magic on Sunday afternoons began in November (11 students)

--Basic Magic on Monday evenings is to begin January 20.

GRADUATIONS: As of this issue of Thunderbow, the Monday evening Basics of Shamanism students and the Tuesday evening Basic Magic students will have received their hard-earned certificates. (Congratulations!)

And, as of the January New Moon, Dee has completed her Ritual Operator training (more Congratulations!)

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GEORGE'S COMMENTS: Thanks to all who've "pitched in" in response to the "State of the Church" New Year's letter. With your participation, we've taken a needed step not only for the Church's progress, but also for the formation of a really solid community of Seven Arrows' Practitioners (one of my long-term goals in this project!)